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writer less noted, might even, in its earlier chapters, surprise by its piquancy. There are bright things enough said to make the fortune of any ordinarily heavy writer. The sketch of Baden-Baden, which opens the series, is very racy; and throughout the book there are scattered pleasant epigrammatic sayings. “La plus riche de toutes les libertés, c’est la liberté de s’enrichir,” is worth keeping for a proverb. What the popular newspaper says will apply to some American journals of like kind, — “Je ne suis pas un journal de principes, car mes principes ont changé plus d’une fois; je suis un journal de famille, et je me glorifie d’être toujours resté fidèle à mes affections.” “I have the same religion as the rest of you,” says the Legitimist to his Catholic friends, “since *je crois sans examiner et sans pratiquer*.” *Apropos* of M. Veuillot, he makes an ingenious pun, — “Car il est plus facile de ruiner un éditeur que de ruiner un argument, et la réplique la plus *saisissante* sera toujours une *saisié*.” “If bishops,” he says, “have ceased to give to the children of kings lessons of *politique*, the time will come when kings will give bishops lessons of *politesse*.” Hits like these redeem the book from absolute dulness; but as a whole, it is the least interesting of all the volumes which bear M. About’s name, and shows decidedly a loss of power.

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9. — 1. *The Constitutional History of England from the Accession of Henry VII. to the Death of George II.* By HENRY HALLAM, LL. D., F. R. A. S., Foreign Associate of the Institute of France. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, Lee, & Co. 1861. 3 vols. Small 8vo.
  2. *The Constitutional History of England since the Accession of George III.* 1760–1860. By THOMAS ERSKINE MAY, C. B. Vol. I. London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. 1861. 8vo. pp. xvi. and 512.

WE have had occasion so recently to speak at some length of Mr. Hallam’s general characteristics as an historian, and of the special merits of his “Constitutional History of England,” that any further remarks on that great work would be superfluous, and it is now necessary only to note the publication of a new edition of it almost simultaneously with the appearance of the first volume of Mr. May’s History, which is designed as a continuation of Mr. Hallam’s labors.

The task which Mr. May has assumed is by no means an easy one. He has to follow a writer whose candor and impartiality are universally recognized, and cannot be too highly praised; his narrative traverses a period during which party prejudice and passion burned with even

more than their usual fierceness ; and he has to discuss questions which are still debated with pertinacity and earnestness. But he has performed his task with signal ability and success. He is not less moderate in his opinions, and he preserves a not less rigid impartiality, than his predecessor, while his style is more fluent and animated. His materials are abundant and trustworthy, and he has made excellent use of the vast treasures of information which, within the last twenty years, have thrown a greater flood of light on the reign of George III. than illuminates any other period of English history. He has cited no manuscript authorities ; but his references to printed works are numerous and judiciously made, and he appears to be familiar with the latest and best works on every part of his subject. More than this, his knowledge has been thoroughly digested ; and his volume everywhere gives evidence of the depth, as well as of the extent, of his information.

His plan differs in several important particulars from Mr. Hallam's, and is open to adverse criticism on the ground that it involves the treatment of one topic under several heads ; but if we take into consideration the limited extent of the period covered by his work, and the nature and relations of the subjects discussed in it, we are inclined to think that no better plan could have been formed. To the manner in which it has been executed we have scarcely any exception to take. Mr. May's division of his topics is simple and natural, and, so far as we can judge from the portion of his work now before us, and from his references to various chapters in his second volume, it covers the whole ground. The first volume is divided into seven chapters. Of these the first two relate to the Influence of the Crown, from the accession of George III. to the present time, and trace its rapid growth in the early part of the reign of George III., when the king was strong enough to supersede that system of government by party which Burke so warmly eulogized, through all the modifications of the personal influence of the sovereign down to its just regulation under the present queen. The third chapter gives a full and satisfactory account of the memorable debates on the Regency question, with notices of the subsequent legislation relative to the incapacity or minority of the sovereign. The fourth chapter relates to the revenue of the crown, and contains a very admirable statement of the legislation during the last hundred years, in regard to the Civil List and other closely connected topics. The fifth chapter is devoted to the House of Lords and the Peerage, and treats of the different classes of peers, and of the sources and nature of their influence. The next chapter is on the House of Commons, and narrates at length the history of the various attempts at Parliamentary Reform, with some incidental remarks on a few topics of secondary

importance. The last chapter in the volume treats of the relations of Parliament, and especially of the House of Commons, to the crown, the law, and the people, and relates to the proceedings against Wilkes, the contest of the House of Commons with the printers, and some other topics connected with the rights and privileges of the two Houses.

The second volume will include chapters on the history of party, civil and religious liberty, the administration of justice, the press, and other subjects. If it is executed with as much ability as the volume now published, the work will take its place among our standard histories, and will form an inseparable continuation of Mr. Hallam's first two works. We shall probably return to this subject on the completion of Mr. May's labors.

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10. — *Memoirs, Biographical and Historical, of Bulstrode Whitelocke, Lord Commissioner of the Great Seal, and Ambassador at the Court of Sweden, at the Period of the Commonwealth.* By R. H. WHITELOCKE, Professor Royal of Wurtemberg. London: Routledge, Warne, and Routledge. 1860. 8vo. pp. xvi. and 475.

BULSTRODE WHITELOCKE was one of the most conspicuous persons in England during the Commonwealth and the Protectorate. Yet he owes most of his reputation at the present time to the fact that he united the character of an author with that of a politician. At his death he left an immense mass of biographical and historical memoranda to illustrate both his own life and the public transactions of that eventful period. Many of these documents are of much importance, and a selection from them was published after Whitelocke's death, under the title of "Memorials of English Affairs," which is well known to students of English history, and forms one of the principal sources of original information as to the civil war and the period immediately following it. From this work, and from some manuscript documents in the possession of his family, the memoir before us has been for the most part compiled. Though it brings forward few new facts, it presents a full and pretty well digested account of Whitelocke's public and private life, and includes many voluminous extracts from his published writings. The author, who is, we presume, a descendant from the Lord Keeper, is strongly inclined to exalt the personal character and to magnify the political sagacity of his hero, and his estimate of both must be taken with much qualification. He has moreover a very absurd prejudice against lawyers, which he ventilates whenever an opportunity occurs, and on some other points his views are equally indefensible. His style has little brilliancy or vivacity, and as a whole the book is tedious and un-